(d) the number of cases in which affliction with symptoms have recurred?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (d) Thee requisite information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Sabha.

Handing over of passenger and ramp handling by Air India to the British Airways

4236. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:
SHRI SHIV PRATAP MISHRA:
SHRI KAPIL VERMA:
SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA JAYAWANTRAO PATIL:

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Air India has decided to hand over passenger and ramp handling to British Airways with effect from November next; if so, tht details thereof and the reasons therefor; and

(b) whether Air India has already contracted out. Cargo handling at Kennedy Airport, New York and negotiation with the unions are under way to contract out traffic handling services; if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) Air-India has a proposal to contract out passenger and ramp handling in London with effect from November 1988 to British Airways with a view to providing better and improved passenger handling facilities with greater economy.

(b) At Kennedy Airport, New York, the activity relating to import cargo has already been contracted out with effect from 1st April, 1986 With regard to the export cargo etc., the contract is not yet final and negoiations are in progress. Contracting out cargo and passenger handling has been considered necessary for reasons of economy and cost effectiveness.

Tetracycline for treatment of Trachoma

4237. SHRI M KADHARSHA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 1998 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 10th August, 1988 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Tetracycline is a preferred antibiotic for treatment of Trachoma and other eye diseases and when this opinion was given;

(b) whether it is a fact that Tetracycline eye ointment account for an annual sale of Rs. 3 lakhs only, whereas eye preparations of other antibiotic accounts for crores of rupees:

(c) whether it is a fact that in view of the sensitive nature of the eye drops of other antibiotics are most commonly used;

(d) what are these antibiotics and what steps are being taken to review and revaluate the drugs already recommended under this programme; and

(e) by when the process is likely to be completed and who would be associated with such a review?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) Yes, Sir. The opinion was given while recommending the list.

(b) Such information is not monitored under the National Programme for Con- for crores of rupees;

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Request of Nauru for pilots from India

4238. SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Nauru had recently approached Government of India to send 20 pilots to Nauru to fly Air Nauru;

(b) whether Government have agreed to send 20 pilots, if so, what are the reasons therefor;

(c) whether it is an anti-labour policy against the Nauru pilots, who are on strike, and Australia and New Zealand have refused to send their pilots; and

(d) what are the circumstances under which Government have agreed to send pilots to Nauru?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) to (d) A request was received in June, 1988 from the Honorary Consul General of the Republic of Nauru, New Delhi for deputing two senior B-737 pilots to Air Nauru to meet the emergent situation what had arisen consequent upon the strike of pilots of their national airlines, Air Nauru. On his request, two B-737 pilots were released from IA on 12-6-1988 on deputation for a period of six months on the terms and conditions mutually agreed upon between IA and Air Nauru. The requirement was for B-737 examiners. There has been no further request for the deputation of pilots to Air Nauru.

Violation of the ban on sale of Estrogen and progesterone

4239. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the *Indian Post* of the 22nd July, 1988 to the effect that despite the ban imposed on the 15th June, 1988 on high dose oral formulaties of Estrogen and progesterone, the drug is freely available with chemists in various parts of the country, particularly in Bombay and Pune;

(b) if so, what action Government propose to take to stop the sale of such banned drugs in the country; and

(c) if answer to the part (b) above be in the negative, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (KUMARI SAROJ KHAPARDE): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The manufacturers of these high dose combinations (other than oral contraceptives) have been directed to forthwith stop manufacture and sale of these combinations and also to withdraw the stocks of the said formulations from the market.

State Drugs Control Authorities who are licensing authorities for manufacture and sale of drugs under the Drugs and Cosmetics Act and Rules thereunder have been requested to ask the manufacturers to stop manufacture of high dose combinations of Ostrogen and Progestins (other than oral contraceptives) and ensure that such combinations are not sold by Chemists and Druggists in their States and to return the stocks with them to the concerned manufacurers. Some consumer organisations, Indian Drugs Manufacturers Association, Organisation of Pharmaceutical Producers of India and Indian Medical Association have been informed of the issue of Notification by the Government to ban manufacture and sale of combination of Ostrogen and Progestins and to give wide publicity of the ban to their members.

A press note regarding ban was published in many leading newspapers and publicity was also given in news bulletins of the All India Radio and Doordarshan.

Damage to national highway No. 1 due to rains

4240. SHRI MUKHTIAR SINGH MALIK: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether National Highway No. 1 from Delhi to Ambala has suffered considerable damage due to the heavy rains;

(b) if so, to what extent;

(c) whether the damaged portion of the said highway has not been repaired, causing great inconvenience for the vehicles;

(d) what steps Government propose to take to get it repaired, immediately; and

(e) what are the reasons for delay in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) and (b) In some lengths pot holes have appeared